

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## FAIRBANKS JURY CONVICTS BARROW MAN IN MARIJUANA MAILING CASE

Fairbanks, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced that on January 9, 2009, after deliberating four hours, a jury of nine men and three women found Robert Daniel Lozano, Sr., a resident of Barrow, Alaska, guilty of one count of attempting to possess marijuana with the intent to distribute.

Lozano, age 49, was tried before United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Beistline.

The evidence introduced at trial revealed that on February 4, 2008, Lozano took possession of a parcel, shipped to his Barrow P.O. Box from California, that had originally contained over 10 pounds of marijuana bud. The parcel was intercepted by Postal Inspectors in Anchorage, who discovered the marijuana after obtaining a search warrant for the parcel. The parcel was repackaged and delivered to the Barrow Post Office, where it was picked up by Lozano. Expert testimony estimated the street value of the marijuana shipped from California to range from approximately \$100,000 to \$300,000, depending on how it could have been packaged and distributed.

Judge Beistline scheduled sentencing for March 20, 2009. Attempting to possess marijuana with the intent to distribute carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, or both. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed is based on the seriousness of the offense and criminal history, if any, of the defendant. Pending sentencing, the court ordered Lozano to remain in custody.

Mr. Cohen commended the United States Postal Inspection Service, the North Slope Borough Police Department, the Alaska State Troopers, and scent detection Police K9 Hershey for their roles in the investigation.

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